

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article comprising:

a core strand formed by twisting a plurality of filaments, and

a plurality of sheath strands arranged around the core strand and each formed by twisting a plurality of filaments,

characterized in that each of the sheath strands is formed by twisting one or more sheath layers made of plural filaments around a core made of one or more filaments, and all of the filaments constituting ~~an outermost~~ each sheath layer, ~~have the same diameter, which is of each sheath strand have the same diameter and a diameter of every filament constituting an outermost sheath layer of each sheath strand is~~ larger than a diameter of ~~the filaments~~ every filament constituting ~~at least a~~ every layer located inside the outermost sheath layer.

2. (Currently Amended) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article comprising:

a core strand formed by twisting a plurality of filaments, and

a plurality of sheath strands arranged around the core strand and each formed by twisting a plurality of filaments,

characterized in that the core strand is formed by twisting one or two sheath layers made of plural filaments around a core made of three filaments, and all of the filaments constituting each sheath layer of the core strand have the same diameter, ~~which is~~ and a diameter of every filament constituting an outermost sheath layer of the core strand is larger than a diameter of the ~~filaments~~ every filament constituting ~~[[a]]~~ every layer located inside the outermost sheath layer.

3. (Original) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article according to claim 2, wherein the core strand has one sheath layer and a ratio of total sectional area of all filaments constituting the core strand to area of a circumcircle formed by filaments constituting the sheath layer is not less than 0.715.

4. (Original) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article according to claim 2, wherein the core strand has two sheath layers and a ratio of total sectional area of all filaments constituting the core strand to area of a circumcircle formed by filaments constituting an outermost sheath layer is not less than 0.730.

5. (Currently Amended) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article comprising:

a core strand formed by twisting a plurality of filaments, and

a plurality of sheath strands arranged around the core strand and each formed by twisting a plurality of filaments,

characterized in that each of the core strand and the sheath strand is formed by twisting one or two sheath layers made of plural filaments around a core made of three filaments, and all of the filaments constituting each sheath layer have a diameter of each of the core strand and sheath strands have the same diameter and a diameter of every filament constituting an outermost sheath layer of each of the core strand and sheath strands is larger than [[that]] a diameter of [[the]] every filament constituting [[a]] every layer located inside the outermost sheath layer.

6. (Original) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article according to claim 5, wherein each strand has one sheath layer and a ratio of total sectional area of all filaments constituting the strand to area of a circumcircle formed by filaments constituting the sheath layer is not less than 0.715.

7. (Original) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article according to claim 5, wherein each strand has two sheath layers and a ratio of total sectional area of all filaments constituting the strand to area of a circumcircle formed by filaments constituting an outermost sheath layer is not less than 0.730.

8. (Currently Amended) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article according to claim 2, wherein a distance between mutual steel filaments in each layer of [[the]] each strand is not more than 0.014 mm.

9. (Currently Amended) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article comprising:

a core strand formed by twisting a plurality of filaments, and

a plurality of sheath strands arranged around the core strand and each formed by twisting a plurality of filaments,

characterized in that each of the sheath strand strands is formed by twisting two sheath layers ~~[[each]]~~ made of plural filaments around a core made of ~~[[three]]~~ one or more filaments, ~~and all of the filaments constituting an outermost sheath layer have the same diameter~~ each sheath layer of each sheath strand have the same diameter and a diameter of every filament constituting an outermost sheath layer of each sheath strand is larger than a diameter of every filament constituting every layer located inside the outermost sheath layer, and when a diameter of a filament constituting an outermost sheath layer in the sheath strand is  $\phi_s$  (mm) and a diameter of a circumcircle inscribing all filaments in the outermost sheath layer is  $\Phi$  (mm), they satisfy a relation of  $0.55 \leq \Phi/6.14\phi_s \leq 0.90$ , and when a diameter of a filament constituting an outermost sheath layer in the core strand is  $\phi_c$  (mm), it satisfies a relation of  $\phi_s \leq \phi_c$ .

10. (Original) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article according to claim 9, wherein all filaments other than filaments constituting the outermost sheath layer in the sheath strands has the same diameter.

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11. (Original) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article according to claim 9, wherein all filaments other than filaments constituting the core in the sheath strands have the same diameter.

12. (Original) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article according to claim 9, wherein all filaments other than filaments constituting an outermost sheath layer in the core strand have the same diameter.

13. (Original) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article according to claim 9, wherein all diameter other than filaments constituting the core in the core strand have the same diameter.

14. (Original) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article according to claim 9, wherein all filaments constituting the core strand have the same diameter.

15. (Original) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article according to claim 9, wherein filaments constituting the outermost sheath layer in the sheath strand have a diameter of 0.20-0.50 mm.

16. (Original) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article according to claim 9, wherein the filaments have a tensile strength of not less than 3000 MPa.

17. (Previously Presented): A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article according to claim 9, wherein the cord has a cord construction formed by arranging six sheath strands around one core strand, each of these sheath strands has a construction formed by arranging two sheath layers made of plural filaments around a core made of three filaments.

18. (Original) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article according to claim 9, wherein a twisting direction of the outermost sheath layer in the sheath strand is the same as that of the sheath strand.

19. (Original) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article according to claim 9, wherein the cord has a wrapping filament helically wound along an outer periphery of the cord.

20. (Currently Amended) A tire comprising a carcass toroidally extending between a pair of bead portions as a skeleton and a belt disposed on an outside of the carcass in a radial direction and comprised of plural belt layers, and steel cords applied to at least one of the carcass and the belt layers,

wherein the steel cords comprise a ~~[[cores]]~~ core strand and a plurality of sheath strands, each formed by twisting a plurality of filaments, wherein ~~at least one~~ each of the core strand and the sheath strands is formed by twisting one or more sheath layers made of plural filaments around a core made of one or more filaments, and all ~~[[each]]~~ of the filaments constituting ~~an~~

~~outermost sheath layer has a diameter larger than that of the filaments~~ each sheath layer of each of the core strand and sheath strands have the same diameter and a diameter of every filament constituting an outermost sheath layer of each of the core strand and sheath strands is larger than a diameter of every filament constituting ~~at least a~~ every layer located inside the outermost sheath layer.

21. (Previously Presented) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article according to claim 5, wherein a distance between mutual steel filaments in each layer of the strand is not more than 0.014 mm.

22. (New) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article comprising:  
a core strand formed by twisting a plurality of filaments; and  
a plurality of sheath strands arranged around the core strand and each formed by twisting a plurality of filaments;

wherein the core strand is formed by twisting one or two sheath layers made of plural filaments around a core made of three filaments, and all of the filaments constituting each sheath layer of the core strand have the same diameter, which is larger than a diameter of the filaments constituting a layer located inside the sheath layer, and

wherein the core strand has one sheath layer and a ratio of total sectional area of all filaments constituting the core strand to area of a circumcircle formed by filaments constituting the sheath layer is not less than 0.715.

23. (New) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article comprising:  
a core strand formed by twisting a plurality of filaments; and  
a plurality of sheath strands arranged around the core strand and each formed by twisting  
a plurality of filaments,

wherein the core strand is formed by twisting one or two sheath layers made of plural  
filaments around a core made of three filaments, and all of the filaments constituting each sheath  
layer of the core strand have the same diameter, which is larger than a diameter of the filaments  
constituting a layer located inside the sheath layer, and

wherein the core strand has two sheath layers and a ratio of total sectional area of all  
filaments constituting the core strand to area of a circumcircle formed by filaments constituting  
an outermost sheath layer is not less than 0.730.

24. (New) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article comprising:  
a core strand formed by twisting a plurality of filaments; and  
a plurality of sheath strands arranged around the core strand and each formed by twisting  
a plurality of filaments,

wherein each of the core strand and the sheath strand is formed by twisting one or two  
sheath layers made of plural filaments around a core made of three filaments, and the filaments  
constituting each sheath layer have a diameter larger than that of the filament constituting a layer  
located inside the sheath layer, and



wherein each strand has one sheath layer and a ratio of total sectional area of all filaments constituting the strand to area of a circumcircle formed by filaments constituting the sheath layer is not less than 0.715.

25. (New) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article comprising:  
a core strand formed by twisting a plurality of filaments; and  
a plurality of sheath strands arranged around the core strand and each formed by twisting a plurality of filaments,

wherein each of the core strand and the sheath strand is formed by twisting one or two sheath layers made of plural filaments around a core made of three filaments, and the filaments constituting each sheath layer have a diameter larger than that of the filament constituting a layer located inside the sheath layer, and

wherein each strand has two sheath layers and a ratio of total sectional area of all filaments constituting the strand to area of a circumcircle formed by filaments constituting an outermost sheath layer is not less than 0.730.

26. (New) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article comprising:  
a core strand formed by twisting a plurality of filaments; and  
a plurality of sheath strands arranged around the core strand and each formed by twisting a plurality of filaments,

wherein the core strand is formed by twisting one or two sheath layers made of plural filaments around a core made of three filaments, and all of the filaments constituting each sheath layer of the core strand have the same diameter, which is larger than a diameter of the filaments constituting a layer located inside the sheath layer, and

wherein a distance between mutual steel filaments in each layer of each strand is not more than 0.014 mm.

27. (New) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article comprising:

a core strand formed by twisting a plurality of filaments; and

a plurality of sheath strands arranged around the core strand and each formed by twisting a plurality of filaments,

wherein the sheath strands are formed by twisting two sheath layers each made of plural filaments around a core made of three filaments, all of the filaments constituting an outermost sheath layer of each sheath strand have the same diameter, and when a diameter of a filament constituting an outermost sheath layer in the sheath strands is  $\phi_s$  (mm) and a diameter of a circumcircle inscribing all filaments in the outermost sheath layer is  $\Phi$  (mm), they satisfy a relation of  $0.55 \leq \Phi/6.14\phi_s \leq 0.90$ , and when a diameter of a filament constituting an outermost sheath layer in the core strand is  $\phi_c$  (mm), it satisfies a relation of  $\phi_s \leq \phi_c$ , wherein all filaments other than filaments constituting the outermost sheath layer in the sheath strands has the same diameter.

28. (New) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article comprising:  
a core strand formed by twisting a plurality of filaments; and  
a plurality of sheath strands arranged around the core strand and each formed by twisting  
a plurality of filaments,

wherein the sheath strands are formed by twisting two sheath layers each made of plural filaments around a core made of three filaments, all of the filaments constituting an outermost sheath layer of each sheath strand have the same diameter, and when a diameter of a filament constituting an outermost sheath layer in the sheath strands is  $\phi_s$  (mm) and a diameter of a circumcircle inscribing all filaments in the outermost sheath layer is  $\Phi$  (mm), they satisfy a relation of  $0.55 \leq \Phi/6.14\phi_s \leq 0.90$ , and when a diameter of a filament constituting an outermost sheath layer in the core strand is  $\phi_c$  (mm), it satisfies a relation of  $\phi_s \leq \phi_c$ , wherein all filaments other than filaments constituting the core in the sheath strands have the same diameter.

29. (New) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article comprising:  
a core strand formed by twisting a plurality of filaments; and  
a plurality of sheath strands arranged around the core strand and each formed by twisting  
a plurality of filaments,

wherein the sheath strands are formed by twisting two sheath layers each made of plural filaments around a core made of three filaments, all of the filaments constituting an outermost sheath layer of each sheath strand have the same diameter, and when a diameter of a filament constituting an outermost sheath layer in the sheath strands is  $\phi_s$  (mm) and a diameter of a

circumcircle inscribing all filaments in the outermost sheath layer is  $\Phi$  (mm), they satisfy a relation of  $0.55 \leq \Phi/6.14\phi_s \leq 0.90$ , and when a diameter of a filament constituting an outermost sheath layer in the core strand is  $\phi_c$  (mm), it satisfies a relation of  $\phi_s \leq \phi_c$ , wherein all filaments other than filaments constituting an outermost sheath layer in the core strand have the same diameter.

30. (New) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article comprising:  
a core strand formed by twisting a plurality of filaments; and  
a plurality of sheath strands arranged around the core strand and each formed by twisting a plurality of filaments,

wherein the sheath strands are formed by twisting two sheath layers each made of plural filaments around a core made of three filaments, all of the filaments constituting an outermost sheath layer of each sheath strand have the same diameter, and when a diameter of a filament constituting an outermost sheath layer in the sheath strands is  $\phi_s$  (mm) and a diameter of a circumcircle inscribing all filaments in the outermost sheath layer is  $\Phi$  (mm), they satisfy a relation of  $0.55 \leq \Phi/6.14\phi_s \leq 0.90$ , and when a diameter of a filament constituting an outermost sheath layer in the core strand is  $\phi_c$  (mm), it satisfies a relation of  $\phi_s \leq \phi_c$ , wherein all diameter other than filaments constituting the core in the core stand have the same diameter.

31. (New) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article comprising:  
a core strand formed by twisting a plurality of filaments; and

a plurality of sheath strands arranged around the core strand and each formed by twisting a plurality of filaments,

wherein the sheath strands are formed by twisting two sheath layers each made of plural filaments around a core made of three filaments, all of the filaments constituting an outermost sheath layer of each sheath strand have the same diameter, and when a diameter of a filament constituting an outermost sheath layer in the sheath strands is  $\phi_s$  (mm) and a diameter of a circumcircle inscribing all filaments in the outermost sheath layer is  $\Phi$  (mm), they satisfy a relation of  $0.55 \leq \Phi/6.14\phi_s \leq 0.90$ , and when a diameter of a filament constituting an outermost sheath layer in the core strand is  $\phi_c$  (mm), it satisfies a relation of  $\phi_s \leq \phi_c$ , wherein all filaments constituting the core strand have the same diameter.

32. (New) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article comprising:

a core strand formed by twisting a plurality of filaments; and

a plurality of sheath strands arranged around the core strand and each formed by twisting a plurality of filaments,

wherein each of the core strand and the sheath strand is formed by twisting one or two sheath layers made of plural filaments around a core made of three filaments, and the filaments constituting each sheath layer have a diameter larger than that of the filament constituting a layer located inside the sheath layer, and

wherein a distance between mutual steel filaments in each layer of the strand is not more than 0.014 mm.